



ARTD 161 – Flute Making – 3 credits
Syllabus for Spring 2015

Class Time: TR 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Instructor: Peter Ali
Email: pali@nwic.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Location: CAC
Office: contact instructor

NWIC MISSION STATEMENT

Through education, Northwest Indian College promotes indigenous self-determination and knowledge.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Presents the role, history, and traditions of the flute in Native American cultures. Supports each student to construct a flute using traditional designs and materials and to learn to play the flute they construct. Prerequisite: none. (HP)

TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

- there is no text for this course.
- resource material – PBS video on a local flute-making family <http://video.pbs.org/video/1392237354>

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

NWIC Outcomes:

- demonstrate knowledge of what it means to be a people
- exhibit a sense of place

Course specific outcomes

- construct a traditional Native American flute
- play songs on the flute they construct
- describe how the flute produces sound
- describe the role of the flute in a specific Native American culture
- discuss the contributions of current Native American flutists

GRADING:

Students will be graded on

- 1) the quality of the flute they create
- 2) a midterm paper about Native American flutes,
- 3) a final performance on their flute in front of the class*

*Students will not be graded on this criterion if their tribal traditions preclude them from playing the flute. In these cases, the requirement to play the flute will be removed from the grading criteria below.

In order to earn a grade of A the student must:

- attend above 90% of class meetings
- construct a playable flute with no major blemishes that incorporates a traditional design
- play three songs on their flute
- accurately describe how the flute makes sound as part of student presentation
- clearly describe the role of the flute in Native cultures from multiple perspectives as part of the student paper

In order to earn a grade of B the student must:

- attend above 80% of class meetings
- construct a playable flute with only minor blemishes that does not impact the sound quality of the flute
- play one song on their flute
- reasonably describe how the flute makes sound as part of student presentation
- describe one aspect of the role of the flute in Native cultures as part of the student paper

In order to earn a grade of C the student must:

- attend above 70% of class meetings
- construct a playable flute with blemishes but still makes sound
- discuss how the flute makes sound as part of student presentation
- describe one aspect of the role of the flute in Native cultures as part of the student paper

In order to earn a grade of D the student must:

- attend above 50% of class meetings
- start on constructing a flute
- discuss how the flute makes sound as part of student presentation with prompting
- make reference to the role of the flute in Native cultures as part of the student paper

COURSE POLICIES:

Please inform instructor if you are not able to attend class for a particular meeting. Please be prompt to class and contribute constructively to the classes. Please turn off cell phones during class meetings.

	Topics Covers
Week 1	Introduction/ Welcome. Students view a 30min PBS video about the local Washington family that makes the flute kits we will use. The cedar flute kits are presented to the students, and each student chooses the one that speaks to him/her.
Week 2	Students are introduced to guest speaker Paul Wagner, a Native American flutist, storyteller, and flute maker. Paul is Coast Salish and Sannich from BC. He gives his perspective on playing the Native flute with demonstration. He provides flutes so that the students can play along with him.
Week 3	Students start working on their flutes. They receive instruction on construction of the flute, as well as how the instrument produces sound.
Week 4	Students learn to play using premade flutes. They continue working on their own flutes. Music books will also be issued.
Week 5	Work on flutes/ practice playing. Guest Speaker
Week 5	Work on flutes/ practice playing.

	Midterm (paper based on experiences from previous week's speaker and links to Native culture)
Week 6	Students view a documentary of five Native American contemporary flutists as they share stories. Class discussion follows the movie.
Week 7	Work on flutes/ practice songs.
Week 8	Guest speaker.
Week 9	Students work on flutes/ practice songs
Week 10	Students finish their flutes which involves dipping them and finalizing art work. They will also pick songs to play for last class for their final.
Week 11	Last class. Students put finishing touches on their flutes. Final (play songs on their newly made flute in front of the class)